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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 INT-05 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
EUR-12 OMB-01 /138 W
----------056543 261012Z /15
P R 260910Z APR 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORIY 6071
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0871

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, IZ
SUBJECT: NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOREIGN
AFFAIRS MEETING IN KABUL

REF: (A) STATE 97545, (B) STATE 74814.

SUMMARY: IRAQ WILL ADHERE TO HARDLINE AT NAMCC AND
SEEK TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON ISRAELI ARMAMENT LEVELS.
IRAQ WILL SUPPORT CONSENSUS ON PUERTO RICO. END SUMMARY.

1. CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTRY COUNSELOR ABDUL JABBAR
AL-HADDAWI APRIL 22 TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS WHICH LIKELY
TO BE CONSIDERED AT NAMCC. HADDAWI INFORMED ME THAT
IRAQI DELEGATION TO KABUL WILL BE LED BY HAMID ALWAN,
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HADDAWI, WHO
IS TOP FOREIGN MINISTRY PROFESSIONAL DEALING WITH
NON-ALIGNED COMMUNITY, WILL ALSO ATTEND.

2. HADDAWI RESPONDED ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY TO
DEMARCHE ON PUERTO RICO (REF B), WHICH I HAD MADE ON
AN EARLIER OCCASION. HE NOTED THAT IRAQ IS A MEMBER
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OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24. IT IS IRAQI POLICY TO NOT
DEVIATE FROM CONSENSUS WITHIN THAT COMMITTEE AND
WITHIN OTHER GROUPS WHICH DEAL WITH LIBERATION ISSUES.
IF CONSENSUS OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT FORMS BEHIND
PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE GROUPS, IRAQ WILL JOIN IN
THAT CONSENSUS. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HE ADDED,
THAT IRAQ WILL RAISE THE ISSUE OF PUERTO RICO AT KABUL.

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NONETHELESS, IRAQ BELIEVES THAT THE PUERTO RICAN
REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE APPEALED TO THE NON-ALIGNED
MOVEMENT HAVE POINTS IN THEIR FAVOR.

3. COMMENT: HADDAWI'S RESPONSE WAS AN EFFORT TO JUSTIFY
AN IRAQI POSITION WHICH IN THE PAST HAS SEEMED A
GRATUITOUS AFFRONT TO THE U.S. HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY
COLLEAGUE, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS,
ISMAT KETTANEH, RECENTLY PROVIDED A MORE REVEALING
EXPLANATION FOR IRAQI POLICY. HE TOLD ME THAT THE
POSITION OF IRAQ ON THE PUERTO RICAN QUESTION
IS A REFLECTION OF THE OVERALL PATTERNS OF THE FOREIGN
RELATIONS OF BOTH IRAQ AND THE USG. IMPLICIT IN THIS
IS THAT IRAQ AND CUBA ARE CLOSE ALLIES IN THE NON-ALIGNED
MOVEMENT. ALSO, A KEY MOTIVATION IN IRAQI SUPPORT
FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AROUND THE WORLD IS THE DESIRE
TO ACHIEVE AS WIDE A POSSIBLE SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. END COMMENT.

4. USING TALKING POINTS IN REF A, I PRESENTED U.S.
VIEWS ON ITEMS WE THOUGHT MIGHT ARISE AT NAMCC. IN
DESCRIBING THE ROLE OF THE KABUL CONFERENCE HADDAWI
NOTED THAT CONTENTIOUS ISSUES WILL PROBABLY BE DEFERRED
TO THE FULL FOREIGN MINISTER'S CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE
IN JULY. HE BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT THE CONFERENCE
WOULD TAKE A STAND ON DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS IN VIEW
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OF THE IMMINENCE OF THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT.
IRAQ, HE SAID, WILL SUBMIT AT KABUL A DRAFT
RESOLUTION AND HAS PREPARED A STUDY ON THE ARMAMENT
OF ISRAEL, AS SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. HE STATED THAT
ISRAEL HAS CLEARLY ARMED ITSELF FAR BEYOND THE NEEDS
FOR ITS OWN SECURITY AND IN THE PROCESS HAS BECOME A
THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF OTHERS.

5. NORTH KOREA, THOUGHT KADDAWI, IS LIKELY TO ASK
FOR A REITERATION OF SUPPORT BY THE NAMCC. HE
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NORTH KOREANS HAD NOT PUSHED THEIR
VIEWS RECENTLY BUT THOUGHT THAT THEY WOULD MAKE A
BEHIND THE SCENES EFFORT AT KABUL. ON THE MIDDLE EAST,
HADDAWI'S EXPOSITION OF IRAQI POLICY WAS ALONG FAMILIAR
LINES. HE EXPLAINED IRAQI POLICY ON LEBANON AS FAVORING
FULL AND IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. HIS STRESS, HOWEVER,
WAS CLEARLY UPON THE WITHDRAWAL PORTION OF THE RESOLUTION
AND EMPHASIZED THE IMMEDIACY OF ACTION REQUIRED BY
ISRAEL. (COMMENT: NONETHELESS, HADDAWI ENUNCIATED
A LESS NEGATIVE VIEW THAN THAT ASCRIBED TO IRAQI
DELEGATE IN USUN 1597. END COMMENT.)

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6. SOUTHERN AFRICA IS AN AREA WHERE IRAQI POSITIONS
ARE, AS WITH PUERTO RICO, DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO GAIN
SUPPORT FOR IRAQI VIEWS ON PALESTINE. IRAQ, SAID
HADDAWI, SUPPORTS ALL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. RESPECTING
SOUTH AFRICA, IRAQ DEMANDS ABOLITION OF APARTHEID AND
ADOPTION OF SANCTIONS. ON THE SUBJECT OF NAMIBIA,
IRAQ IS SKEPTICAL THAT USG POLICY IS SINCERELY
SUPPORTIVE OF THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA RATHER THAN
REFLECTIVE OF U.S. COMMERCIAL AND STRATEGIC INTERESTS.
HADDAWI EXPRESSED PIQUE AT NIGERIAN ROLE IN ALLEGEDLY
SUPPORTING USG DIPLOMACY TO DETRIMENT OF THIRD WORLD.

7. HADDAWI FELT THAT THE MASS MEDIA ISSUE WOULD
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NOT ARISE AT KABUL IN VIEW OF THE SHORT TIME WHICH
WOULD LAPSE FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED
INFORMATION MINISTERS IN HAVANA. AT MOST, HE SUGGESTED,
CUBA WOULD PROVIDE A SHORT REPORT.

8. FINAL COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT ANY DISCUSSION WITH
MEMBERS OF IRAQI DELEGATION AT KABUL WOULD BE VERY FRUITFUL.
HADDAWI, A COMPETENT PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT WHO ONCE
SERVED IN WASHINGTON, IS APPROACHABLE, BUT HE AND
DELEGATION HEAD ARE UNLIKELY TO DEVIATE FROM HARDLINE
OBJECTIVES. MY CONVERSATION WITH HADDAWI WAS MOST
AMIABLE, BUT IRAQI REGIME WILL CONTINUE TO SUSPECT
THAT WE ARE SEEKING TO CURTAIL INFLUENCE OF NAM
RADICALS. DIALOGUE MAY MAKE OUR MOTIVATIONS SEEM
LESS SINISTER, BUT IT WILL REQUIRE TIME AND WILL
BEST SUCCEED AWAY FROM THE HEAT OF NAM CONFERENCE
SITES.
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